



Council of the
European Union

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'I' ITEM NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1)

Subject: Statement on behalf of the EU and its Member States on the occasion of the 58th session of the Legal Subcommittee (LSC) of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) (Vienna, 1 – 12 April 2019)

1. The Space Working Party found agreement on the above mentioned statement at its meeting on 20 March 2019.
2. The Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to confirm this agreement and endorse the text, as set out in the Annex to this Note.

Statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States
on the occasion of the 58th session of the
Legal Subcommittee (LSC) of the United Nations Committee
on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) (Vienna, 1 – 12 April 2019)

Chair,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. The following countries align themselves with this statement: [].
2. Please allow me first, to thank you for chairing this session, and Director Di Pippo and the Office for Outer Space Affairs, for the excellent preparation and the background documentation. We applaud the adoption in December 2018 of General Assembly Resolution [73/91](#) and warmly welcome five new members of COPUOS: Cyprus, Ethiopia, Finland, Mauritius and Paraguay. We also welcome the new Permanent Observers and are very happy that the EU is amongst them.
3. Chair, space is a driver of job creation, economic growth and innovation for the benefit of all people. The EU, its Member States and ESA together have developed strong and unique space capacities and industry, and the EU has a large budget for space, most of which is dedicated to the European Global Navigation Satellite systems, Galileo and EGNOS, and the European earth-observation system, Copernicus. These flagship programmes have made impressive progress recently and the data and services they produce are available on a full, open and free-of-charge basis to users world-wide.
4. An important reason for this investment effort is that we believe that space science, applications and technologies have a great potential to help us tackle major global challenges such as climate change, disaster management, food security, environmental protection, efficient management of resources and transport development. In this respect, we are looking forward to continue our work on the 2030 Space Agenda and its implementation plan with a view to mobilising space for the realisation of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals and targets.

5. Chair, we believe that space activities must take place within a multilateral rules-based system. We reiterate that UNOOSA, COPUOS and its Subcommittees are a unique international Platform for international cooperation in space, including on the development of international norms and standards regulating space activities. We think that COPUOS can make an important contribution to the security, safety and sustainability of our activities in outer space.
6. We believe that the five UN Treaties on outer space and five UNGA sets of principles, as well as other related documents and resolutions adopted by the UNGA, constitute the cornerstone of international space law and that COPUOS and its subcommittees are the main forum for an inclusive dialogue on space law and space policy issues. As a responsible space actor, the European Union is exploring the possibility for its accession to the relevant UN Treaties on Outer Space.
7. We welcome the agreement on 21 Guidelines on the long term sustainability of outer space. We encourage all members to report on their implementation of these thus far agreed guidelines, and we look forward to the continuation of this dialogue under the LTS agenda item of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.
8. We also support a continued dialogue in COPUOS in order to better understand the concept of Space Traffic Management as well as on guidelines, practices, standards or norms of behaviour, in particular for the safe and sustainable use of outer space. We equally support the development of an international framework for the Utilisation and Exploitation of Space Resources within COPUOS.
9. Chair we also underline the need to foster increased international cooperation and transparency of outer space activities. Capacity building in space law and policy is of great importance for maintaining the rule of law with regard to space activities especially with regard to new space actors and emerging space nations. In this regard, we welcome the work under TP 2 and the draft guidance document.

Thank you Chair